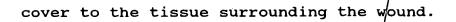
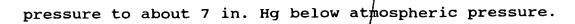


1. An appliance for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

- (a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
- (b) a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
- (c) reduced pressure supply means adapted to connect to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply said reduced pressure beneath the cover.
- 2. The appliance as redited in claim 1 comprising a screen for preventing overgrowth of wound tissue, said screen being locatable between said wound and said cover.
- 3. The appliance as recited in claim 2 wherein said screen comprises a porous sheet.
- 4. The appliance as recited in claim 1 wherein said reduced pressure supply means comprises a screen having an open cell foam and said reduced pressure supply means includes a segment of tubing embedded within said screen.
- 5. The appliance as recited in claim 1 wherein said cover is sufficiently rigid to support said cover out of contact with the wound and said reduced pressure supply means comprises a suction port on said cover.
- 6. The appliance as recited in claim 5 wherein said seal includes a cuff around the periphery of said cover for preventing said cover from digging into the skin during the treatment.
- 7. The appliance as recited in claim 1 wherein said seal includes an adhesive material on the cover for securing said



- 8. An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:
- (a) a vacuum system for producing a reduced pressure;
- (b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system for applying said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance comprising:
- (i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
- (ii) a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
- (iii) reduced pressure supply means adapted to connect with the vacuum system for supplying said reduced pressure to the wound.
- 9. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein said vacuum system includes a collection device for collecting fluid aspirated from the wound.
- 10. The apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein said collection device includes means for halting said application of reduced pressure to the wound when said fluid exceeds a predetermined quantity.
- 11. The apparatus as recited in claim 8 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.
- 12. A method for treating a wound comprising the steps of:
 - (a) applying a reduced pressure to the wound; and
- (b) maintaining reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward a selected stage of healing.
- 13. The method as recited in claim 12 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric



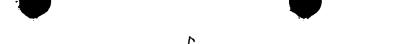
- 14. The method as recited in claim 12 wherein said applying step comprises steps of:
- (a) locating an impermeable cover over the wound, said cover having a suction port;
- (b) sealing the periphery of said impermeable cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
- (c) operably connecting said suction port with a vacuum system for producing said reduced pressure.
- 15. The method as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of placing a porous screen over the wound prior to said locating step.
- 16. A method of treating a wound comprising the steps of:
- (a) securing an appliance for applying reduced pressure to the wound; and
- (b) providing reduced pressure to said appliance in alternating intervals of application and non-application.
- 17. The method as recited in claim 16 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.
- 18. A method of pretreating a skin flap to promote attachment of the flap to a wound comprising the step of applying reduced pressure to a region of skin tissue adjacent to the wound prior to detachment of said skin tissue adjacent to the wound to form the flap from said region of skin.
 - 19. An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:
 - a vacuum system for producing a reduced pressure;
 and
 - b. a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system for applying said reduced



pressure to the wound, the appliance including:

- i. an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and for maintaining reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
- ii. a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;
- iii. reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system for supplying said reduced pressure to the wound; and
- iv. a screen for preventing overgrowth of wound tissue; said screen being located between said wound and said cover.
- 20. The apparatus as recited in Claim 19 wherein said vacuum system includes a collection device for collecting fluid aspirated from the wound.
- 21. The apparatus as recited in Claim 19 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in Hg below atmospheric pressure.
 - 22. An apparatus for treating a wound comprising:
 - a. a vacuum system for producing a reduced pressure; and
 - b. a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system for applying said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:
 - i. an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and for maintaining reduced pressure at the site of the wound, wherein said cover comprises a flexible sheet;
 - ii. a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
 - iii. reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system for supplying said reduced pressure to the wound.

- 23. The apparatus as recited in claim 22 wherein said vacuum system includes a collection device for collecting fluid aspirated from the wound.
- 24. The apparatus as recited in claim 22 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.
- 25. A method of treating a wound comprising the steps of:
 - a. applying a reduced/pressure to the wound; and
 - b. maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward cessation of partial thickness burn progression.
- 26. The method as recited in claim 25 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. below atmospheric pressure.
- 27. The method as recited in claim 25 wherein said applying step comprises the steps of:
 - a. locating an impermeable cover over the wound, said cover having a suction port;
 - b. sealing the periphery of said impermeable cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
 - c. operably connecting said suction port with a vacuum system for producing said reduced pressure.
- 28. A method of treating a wound comprising the steps of:
 - a. applying a reduced pressure to the wound; and
 - b. maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward at least a 50% reduction in bacterial density in the wound.
- 29. The method as recited in claim 28 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric



pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

- 30. The method as recited in claim 28 wherein said applying step comprises the steps of:
 - a. locating an impermeable cover over the wound, said cover having a suction port;
 - b. sealing the periphery of said impermeable cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and
 - c. operably connecting said suction port with a vacuum system for producing said reduced pressure.
- 31. An assembly for supplying reduced pressure beneath an impermeable cover sealed to tissue surrounding a wound, the assembly comprising:
 - a. an open cell foam screen adapted to prevent overgrowth of wound tissue and to distribute the reduced pressure [to] over the wound; and
 - b. a tube member embedded in said screen adapted to extend from beneath the cover and to supply the reduced pressure to said foam.
- 32. The assembly of claim 31 wherein said tube member has a side port within the foam for promoting substantially uniform application of reduced pressure to the wound.
- 33. The assembly of claim 31 wherein said foam screen is adapted to be conformed to the shape and size of the wound.
- 34. An assembly for supplying reduced pressure beneath an impermeable cover sealed to tissue surrounding a wound, the assembly comprising:
 - a. an open cell foam screen adapted to distribute the reduced pressure over the wound; and
 - b. a tube member embedded in said screen adapted to extend from beneath the cover and to supply the reduced pressure to said foam.



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- 35. The assembly of Claim 34 wherein said tube member has a side port within the foam for promoting substantially uniform application of reduced pressure to the wound.
- 36. The assembly of Claim 34 wherein said foam screen is adapted to conform to the shape and size of the wound.
- 37. An appliance for treating a wound with reduced pressure comprising:
 - a. an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and for maintaining reduced pressure at the site of the wound;
 - b. a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;
 - c. reduced pressure supply means for supplying said reduced pressure to the wound; and
 - d. a screen for preventing overgrowth of wound tissue, said screen being located between said wound and said cover.